



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

**Board Direction**

**BD-006750-20**

**ABP-307508-20**

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 20/10/2020.

The Board decided to grant permission generally in accordance with the Inspector's recommendation, for the following reasons and considerations, and subject to the following conditions.

### **Reasons and Considerations**

In coming to its decision, the Board had regard to the following:

- (a) the site's location on lands with a zoning objective for residential development;
- (b) the policies and objectives in the Athlone Town Development Plan 2014-2020;
- (c) the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness 2016;
- (d) the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) issued by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in March 2013 (2019);
- (e) the Guidelines for Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas and the accompanying Urban Design Manual – a Best Practice Guide, issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in May 2009;

- (f) Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities, prepared by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in December 2018;
- (g) 'Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments, Guidelines for Planning Authorities' prepared by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in March 2018;
- (h) the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on The Planning System and Flood Risk Management (including the associated technical appendices) issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in November 2009;
- (i) the nature, scale and design of the proposed development;
- (j) the availability in the area of a wide range of educational, social, community and transport infrastructure,
- (k) the pattern of existing and permitted development in the area,
- (l) The Report of the Chief Executive of Westmeath County Council received from the planning authority;
- (m) the submissions and observations received;
- (n) The report and recommendation of the inspector including the examination, analysis and evaluation undertaken in relation to appropriate assessment and environmental impact assessment.

it is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would not seriously injure the residential or visual amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity, would respect the existing character of the area and would be acceptable in terms of traffic and pedestrian safety and convenience. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

### **Appropriate Assessment Screening**

The Board noted that the proposed development is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site. In completing the screening for

Appropriate Assessment, the Board had regard to the nature, scale and location of the proposed development, the documentation including submissions on file, and the Inspector's screening assessment.

The Board accepted and adopted the screening assessment carried out by the Inspector and the conclusion in the Inspector's report in respect of the identification of the European sites which could potentially be affected by the proposed development, and the identification and assessment of the potential likely significant effects of the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, on these European sites in view of the sites' conservation objectives. The Board was satisfied that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on the following nine European sites:- Crosswood Bog SAC [002337], Carn Park Bog SAC [002336], Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough SAC [002339], Castlesampson Esker SAC [001625], Pilgrim's Road Esker SAC [001776], Mongan Bog SAC [000580], Mongan Bog SPA [004017], Lough Funshinagh SAC [000611] and Fin Lough (Offaly) SAC [000576] in the light of their conservation objectives, having regard to the nature of the proposed development and the distances from the site to these European sites.

### **Appropriate Assessment**

The Board was satisfied that the information before it was adequate to undertake an Appropriate Assessment in respect of the subject development, in relation to the remaining European sites identified by the Inspector, that is, Lough Ree SAC [000440], Lough Ree SPA [004064], River Shannon Callows SAC [000216] and Middle Shannon Callows SPA [004096].

The Board completed an Appropriate Assessment in relation to the potential effects of the proposed development on these four designated European Sites, taking into account the nature, scale and location of the proposed development within a zoned and serviced urban area, the Natura Impact Statement submitted with the application, and the Inspector's report and submissions on file.

In completing the assessment, the Board considered, in particular:

- (i) the likely direct and indirect impacts arising from the proposed development both individually or in combination with other plans or projects,
- (ii) the mitigation measures which are included as part of the current proposal,
- (iii) the conservation objectives for these European sites, and

In completing the Appropriate Assessment, the Board adopted the report of the Inspector and concluded that, subject to the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures contained in the Natura Impact Statement, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects would not adversely affect the integrity of the relevant European sites Lough Ree SAC [000440], Lough Ree SPA [004064], River Shannon Callows SAC [000216] and Middle Shannon Callows SPA [004096], or any other European site, in view of the site's Conservation Objectives.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment**

The Board completed in compliance with Section 172 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, an environmental impact assessment of the proposed development, taking into account:

- (a) the nature, scale, location and extent of the proposed development,
- (b) the environmental impact assessment report and associated documentation submitted with the application,
- (c) the submissions from the planning authority, the prescribed bodies and the public in the course of the application, and
- (d) the Inspector's report.

The Board considered that the environmental impact assessment report, supported by the documentation submitted by the applicant, identifies and describes adequately the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed development on the environment.

The Board completed an environmental impact assessment in relation to the proposed development and, in doing so, agreed with the examination, set out in the Inspector's report, of the information contained in the environmental impact

assessment report, associated documentation submitted by the applicant, and submissions made in the course of the planning application, and adopted the Inspector's assessment in this regard.

### **Reasoned Conclusions on the Significant Effects:**

The Board considered that the environmental impact assessment report, supported by the documentation submitted by the applicant, provided information which is reasonable and sufficient to allow the Board to reach a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the proposed development on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment. The Board is satisfied that the information contained in the environmental impact assessment report is up to date and complies with the provisions of EU Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU. The Board considered that the main significant direct and indirect effects of the proposed development on the environment are those arising from the impacts listed below. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is the overarching general mitigation relevant to the project design and delivery for the construction stage.

The Board considered and agreed with the Inspector's reasoned conclusions that the main significant direct and indirect effects of the proposed development on the environment are, and would be mitigated, as follows:

- a) Significant direct positive effects with regard to population and material assets due to the increase in the housing stock that it would make available in the urban area.
- b) A significant direct effect on land by the change in the use and appearance of a relatively large area of former agricultural land to residential. Given the location of the site within the built up area of suburban Athlone and the need for housing in the region, this effect would not have a significant negative impact on the environment.
- c) Potential significant effects on soil during construction, which will be mitigated by the re-use of material on the site and the implementation of measures to control emissions of sediment to water and dust to air during construction.

- d) Potential effects arising from noise and vibration during construction which will be mitigated by appropriate management measures.
- e) Potential effects on air during construction which will be mitigated by a dust management plan including a monitoring programme.
- f) Potential indirect effects on water which will be mitigated during the occupation of the development by the proposed system for surface water management and attenuation with respect to stormwater runoff and the drainage of foul effluent to the public foul sewerage system, and which will be mitigated during construction by appropriate management measures to control the emissions of sediment to water.
- g) A positive effect on the streetscape because the proposed development would improve the amenity of the land through the provision of dedicated public open spaces and improved public realm.

The proposed development is not likely to have significant adverse effects on human health, biodiversity or cultural heritage.

The likely significant environmental effects arising as a consequence of the proposed development have, therefore, been satisfactorily identified, described and assessed.

The Board concluded that, subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures set out in the environmental impact assessment report, and subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the effects on the environment of the proposed development, by itself and in combination with other development in the vicinity, would be acceptable. In doing so, the Board adopted the report and conclusions of the Inspector.

### **Conclusion on Proper Planning and Sustainable Development**

The Board considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below that the proposed development would constitute an acceptable quantum and density of development in this accessible suburban location, would not seriously injure the residential or visual amenities of the area, would be acceptable in terms of urban design, density, height and quantum of development, would be acceptable in terms

of pedestrian and traffic safety. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

The Board considered that, while a grant of permission for the proposed Strategic Housing Development would not materially contravene a zoning objective of the statutory plans for the area, a grant of permission could materially contravene the Athlone Town Development Plan 2014-2020 in relation to residential density. The Board considers that, having regard to the provisions of section 37(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the grant of permission in material contravention of the Athlone Town Development Plan would be justified for the following reasons and considerations.

In relation to section 37(2)(b)(i) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended):

The proposed development is considered to be of strategic importance having regard to the definition of 'strategic housing development' pursuant to section 3 of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016 (as amended) and its potential to contribute to the achievement of the Government's policy to increase delivery of housing from its current under supply set out in Rebuilding Ireland – Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness issued in July 2016.

In relation to section 37(2)(b)(iii) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended):

An assessment of the proposed development was carried out to determine that the proposed development conforms with guidelines in relation to density in larger towns, as set out in section 5 of the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas guidelines. It is a requirement of SPPR 4 of the Urban Development and Building Height Guidelines that in future residential development of greenfield or edge of town locations, planning authorities must secure the minimum residential densities for such locations as set out in the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas guidelines. Thus, permission for the development should be granted having regard to guidelines under section 28 of the Act, specifically section 5.11 of the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas guidelines which states

that whilst the land take of the ancillary facilities remains relatively constant, the greatest efficiency in land usage on such lands will be achieved by providing net residential densities in the general range of 35-50 dwellings per hectare and such densities (involving a variety of housing types where possible) should be encouraged generally. Development at net densities less than 30 dwellings per hectare should generally be discouraged in the interests of land efficiency, the proposed development may be approved, even where specific objectives such as Section 3.8 of the operative Athlone Town Development Plan 2014-2020 may indicate otherwise and, as such, diverge with national policy set out in Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework (in particular objective 35).

## **Conditions**

1. The proposed development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions. Where such conditions require details to be agreed with the planning authority, the developer shall agree such details in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of development and the development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the agreed particulars. In default of agreement, such issues may be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

Reason: In the interest of clarity.

2. Mitigation and monitoring measures outlined in the plans and particulars, including the Environmental Impact Assessment Report submitted with this application as set out in Chapter 14 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report 'Schedule of Mitigation', shall be carried out in full, except where otherwise required by conditions attached to this permission.

Reason: In the interest of protecting the environment and in the interest of public health.

3. An Ecological Management Scheme including reference to phasing/construction timing and landscaping for the proposed development, with an objective of maintaining a habitat of mature trees and hedgerows present within the site, shall be prepared and deal with specified by points (a) to (c), unless otherwise submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. The site shall be managed in accordance with the agreed scheme.

(a) The developer shall carry out further survey work in relation to Badger to determine the extent of use of an on-site sett. Additional protection measures to compensate/mitigate for loss of the sett and foraging area shall be outlined.

(b) With regard to the constructed wetland feature, a Biodiversity Management Plan shall be prepared in order to demonstrate that impacts to protected species will be mitigated for, when maintenance such as vegetation removal, dredging and silt removal are required.

(c) The developer shall carry out further survey work on the site in relation to Otter, in order to inform any additional protection measures to mitigate for loss of habitat during construction.

The site shall be managed in accordance with the agreed scheme.

Reason: To ensure the preservation and protection of flora and fauna within the site.

4. Bat roosts shall be incorporated into the site after the conclusion of an appropriately detailed survey to the written satisfaction of the planning authority and in accordance with the details submitted to An Bord Pleanála with this application unless otherwise agreed in writing with the planning authority

Reason: To ensure the protection of the natural heritage on the site.

5. (a) The development shall be carried out on a revised phased basis. In Phase 1, the proposed signalised junction shall be completed and operational before the occupation of any units, the junction shall be Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Actuation (MOVA) controlled or similar and have the capability to be linked to the MOVA controlled junction at the Ballymahon Road.

(b) The delivery of the Cornamaddy/Coosan Link Road shall take place prior to the occupation of any unit completed in Phases 3 and 4. Prior to commencement of any development on the overall site, details of the first phase shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with the planning authority.

Work on any subsequent phases shall not commence until such time as the written agreement of the planning authority is given to commence the next phase. Details of further phases shall be as agreed in writing with the planning authority.

Reason: To ensure the timely provision of services, for the benefit of the occupants of the proposed dwellings.

6. The proposed development shall be amended as follows:

a) Along the northern and eastern boundary of the site with farmland and sporting grounds a two metre high concrete block wall or a two metre high concrete post and panel fence shall be placed inside the existing boundary hedge/wall/ditch which shall be retained where possible and shall be supplemented by additional planting where necessary.

Revised drawings showing compliance with these requirements shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

Reason: In the interests of residential and visual amenity.

7. All roads and footpaths shown connecting to adjoining lands shall be constructed up to the boundaries with no ransom strips remaining to provide access to adjoining lands. These areas shall be shown for taking in charge in a drawing to be submitted and agreed with the Planning Authority.

Reason: In the interest of permeability and proper planning and sustainable development.

8. Details of the materials, colours and textures of all the external finishes to the proposed dwellings/buildings shall be as submitted with the application, unless

otherwise agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. In default of agreement the matter(s) in dispute shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

Reason: In the interest of visual amenity.

9. All plant including extract ventilation systems and refrigerator condenser units shall be sited in a manner so as not to cause nuisance at sensitive locations due to odour or noise. All mechanical plant and ventilation inlets and outlets shall be sound insulated and/or fitted with sound attenuators to ensure that noise levels do not pose a nuisance at noise sensitive locations.

Reason: In the interest of residential amenity.

10. No advertisement or advertisement structure (other than those shown on the drawings submitted with the application) shall be erected or displayed within the curtilage of the site in such a manner as to be visible from outside the building, unless authorised by a further grant of planning permission.

Reason: In the interest of visual amenity.

11. Proposals for an estate/street name, house numbering scheme and associated signage shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. Thereafter, all estate and street signs, and house numbers, shall be provided in accordance with the agreed scheme. The proposed name(s) shall be based on local historical or topographical features, or other alternatives acceptable to the planning authority. No advertisements/marketing signage relating to the name(s) of the development shall be erected until the developer has obtained the planning authority's written agreement to the proposed name(s).

Reason: In the interest of legibility and to ensure the use of locally appropriate place names for new residential areas.

12. Public lighting shall be provided in accordance with a scheme, which shall include lighting along pedestrian routes through open spaces details of which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development/installation of lighting. Such lighting shall be provided prior to the making available for occupation of any house.

Reason: In the interests of amenity and public safety.

13. All service cables associated with the proposed development (such as electrical, telecommunications and communal television) shall be located underground. Ducting shall be provided by the developer to facilitate the provision of broadband infrastructure within the proposed development. All existing over ground cables shall be relocated underground as part of the site development works.

Reason: In the interests of visual and residential amenity.

14. The internal road and cycle network serving the proposed development, including turning bays, junctions, parking areas, footpaths and kerbs shall be in accordance with the detailed construction standards of the planning authority for such works and design standards outlined in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets and the National Cycle Manual. In default of agreement the matter(s) in dispute shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

Reason: In the interest of amenity and of traffic and pedestrian safety

15. Prior to the opening/occupation of the development, a Mobility Management Strategy shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority. This shall provide for incentives to encourage the use of public transport, cycling, walking and carpooling by residents/occupants/staff employed in the development and to reduce and regulate the extent of parking. The mobility strategy shall be prepared and implemented by the management company for all units within the development. Details to be agreed with the planning authority shall include the provision of centralised facilities within the childcare facility of the development for bicycle

parking, shower and changing facilities associated with the policies set out in the strategy.

Reason: In the interest of encouraging the use of sustainable modes of transport.

16. A minimum of 10% of all car parking spaces should be provided with EV charging stations/points, and ducting shall be provided for all remaining car parking spaces facilitating the installation of EV charging points/stations at a later date.

Where proposals relating to the installation of EV ducting and charging stations/points has not been submitted with the application, in accordance with the above noted requirements, the development shall submit such proposals shall be submitted and agreed in writing with the Planning Authority prior to the occupation of the development.

Reason: To provide for and/or future proof the development such as would facilitate the use of Electric Vehicles.

17. a) Drainage arrangements including the attenuation and disposal of surface water, shall comply with the requirements of the planning authority for such works and services. Prior to commencement of development the developer shall submit to the Planning Authority for written agreement a Stage 2 - Detailed Design Stage Storm Water Audit. Upon Completion of the development, a Stage 3 Completion Stormwater Audit to demonstrate Sustainable Urban Drainage System measures have been installed, and are working as designed and that there has been no misconnections or damage to storm water drainage infrastructure during construction, shall be submitted to the planning authority for written agreement.

b) The wetland feature shall incorporate all the design measures outlined in the Wetland Health & Safety Risk Assessment submitted with the application.

Reason: In the interest of public health and surface water management.

18. The site shall be landscaped in accordance with the detailed comprehensive scheme of landscaping, which accompanied the application submitted, unless

otherwise agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

Reason: In the interest of residential and visual amenity

19. The areas of public open space shown on the lodged plans shall be reserved for such use and shall be levelled, soiled, seeded, and landscaped in accordance with the landscape scheme submitted to An Bord Pleanála with this application, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the planning authority. This work shall be completed before any of the dwellings are made available for occupation and shall be maintained as public open space by the developer until taken in charge by the local authority or management company.

Reason: In order to ensure the satisfactory development of the public open space areas, and their continued use for this purpose.

20. (a) Prior to commencement of development, all trees, groups of trees, hedging and shrubs which are to be retained shall be enclosed within stout fences not less than 1.5 metres in height. This protective fencing shall enclose an area covered by the crown spread of the branches, or at minimum a radius of two metres from the trunk of the tree or the centre of the shrub, and to a distance of two metres on each side of the hedge for its full length, and shall be maintained until the development has been completed.

(b) No construction equipment, machinery or materials shall be brought onto the site for the purpose of the development until all the trees which are to be retained have been protected by this fencing. No work is shall be carried out within the area enclosed by the fencing and, in particular, there shall be no parking of vehicles, placing of site huts, storage compounds or topsoil heaps, storage of oil, chemicals or other substances, and no lighting of fires, over the root spread of any tree to be retained.

(c) Excavations in preparation for foundations and drainage, and all works above ground level in the immediate vicinity of tree(s) and hedges and identified as 'to be retained' on landscape drawings, as submitted with the application, shall be carried

out under the supervision of a specialist arborist, in a manner that will ensure that all major roots are protected and all branches are retained.

(d) No trench, embankment or pipe run shall be located within three metres of any trees and hedging which are to be retained on the site.

Reason: To protect trees and planting during the construction period in the interest of visual amenity.

21. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall lodge with the planning authority a cash deposit, a bond of an insurance company or such other security as may be accepted in writing by the planning authority, to secure the protection of the trees on site and to make good any damage caused during the construction period, coupled with an agreement empowering the planning authority to apply such security, or part thereof, to the satisfactory protection of any tree or trees on the site or the replacement of any such trees which die, are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased within a period of three years from the substantial completion of the development with others of similar size and species. The form and amount of the security shall be as agreed between the planning authority and the developer or, in default of agreement, shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

Reason: To secure the protection of the trees on the site.

23. Construction and demolition waste shall be managed in accordance with a construction waste and demolition management plan, which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. This plan shall be prepared in accordance with the “Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects”, published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in July 2006. The plan shall include details of waste to be generated during site clearance and construction phases, and details of the methods and locations to be employed for the prevention, minimisation, recovery and disposal of this material in accordance with the provision of the Waste Management Plan for the Region in which the site is situated.

Reason: In the interest of sustainable waste management.

24. The construction of the development shall be managed in accordance with a Construction Management Plan, which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. This plan shall provide details of intended construction practice for the development, including:

- a) Location of the site and materials compound(s) including area(s) identified for the storage of construction refuse;
- b) Location of areas for construction site offices and staff facilities;
- c) Details of site security fencing and hoardings;
- d) Details of on-site car parking facilities for site workers during the course of construction;
- e) Details of the timing and routing of construction traffic to and from the construction site and associated directional signage, to include proposals to facilitate the delivery of abnormal loads to the site;
- f) Measures to obviate queuing of construction traffic on the adjoining road network;
- g) Measures to prevent the spillage or deposit of clay, rubble or other debris on the public road network;
- h) Alternative arrangements to be put in place for pedestrians and vehicles in the case of the closure of any public road or footpath during the course of site development works;
- i) Details of appropriate mitigation measures for noise, dust and vibration, and monitoring of such levels;
- j) Containment of all construction-related fuel and oil within specially constructed bunds to ensure that fuel spillages are fully contained. Such bunds shall be roofed to exclude rainwater;
- k) Off-site disposal of construction/demolition waste and details of how it is proposed to manage excavated soil;

l) Means to ensure that surface water run-off is controlled such that no silt or other pollutants enter local surface water sewers or drains.

m) A record of daily checks that the works are being undertaken in accordance with the Construction Management Plan shall be kept for inspection by the planning authority.

Reason: In the interest of amenities, public health and safety.

25. Site development and building works shall be carried out only between the hours of 0700 to 1900 Mondays to Saturdays inclusive, and not at all on Sundays and public holidays. Deviation from these times will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances where prior written approval has been received from the planning authority.

Reason: In order to safeguard the residential amenities of property in the vicinity.

26. Prior to commencement of development, the applicant or other person with an interest in the land to which the application relates shall enter into an agreement in writing with the planning authority in relation to the provision of housing in accordance with the requirements of section 94(4) and section 96(2) and (3) (Part V) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, unless an exemption certificate shall have been applied for and been granted under section 97 of the Act, as amended. Where such an agreement is not reached within eight weeks from the date of this order, the matter in dispute (other than a matter to which section 96(7) applies) may be referred by the planning authority or any other prospective party to the agreement to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

Reason: To comply with the requirements of Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and of the housing strategy in the development plan of the area.

27. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall lodge with the planning authority a cash deposit, a bond of an insurance company, or other security to secure the provision and satisfactory completion and maintenance until taken in

charge by the local authority of roads, footpaths, watermains, drains, public open space and other services required in connection with the development, coupled with an agreement empowering the local authority to apply such security or part thereof to the satisfactory completion or maintenance of any part of the development. The form and amount of the security shall be as agreed between the planning authority and the developer or, in default of agreement, shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

Reason: To ensure the satisfactory completion and maintenance of the development until taken in charge.

28. The management and maintenance of the proposed development following its completion shall be the responsibility of a legally constituted management company, or by the local authority in the event of the development being taken in charge. Detailed proposals in this regard shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to occupation of the development.

Reason: To ensure the satisfactory completion and maintenance of this development.

29. The developer shall enter into water and/or wastewater connection agreement(s) with Irish Water, prior to commencement of development.

Reason: In the interest of public health.

30. The developer shall facilitate the preservation, recording and protection of archaeological materials or features that may exist within the site. In this regard, the developer shall -

(a) notify the planning authority in writing at least four weeks prior to the commencement of any site operation (including hydrological and geotechnical investigations) relating to the proposed development,

(b) employ a suitably-qualified archaeologist who shall monitor all site investigations and other excavation works, and

(c) provide arrangements, acceptable to the planning authority, for the recording and for the removal of any archaeological material which the authority considers appropriate to remove.

In default of agreement on any of these requirements, the matter shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

Reason: In order to conserve the archaeological heritage of the site and to secure the preservation and protection of any remains that may exist within the site.

31. The developer shall pay to the planning authority a financial contribution in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in the area of the planning authority that is provided or intended to be provided by or on behalf of the authority in accordance with the terms of the Development Contribution Scheme made under section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The contribution shall be paid prior to commencement of development or in such phased payments as the planning authority may facilitate and shall be subject to any applicable indexation provisions of the Scheme at the time of payment. Details of the application of the terms of the Scheme shall be agreed between the planning authority and the developer or, in default of such agreement, the matter shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála to determine the proper application of the terms of the Scheme.

Reason: It is a requirement of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that a condition requiring a contribution in accordance with the Development Contribution Scheme made under section 48 of the Act be applied to the permission.

32. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall lodge with the planning authority a cash deposit, a bond of an insurance company, or other security to secure the reinstatement of public roads which may be damaged by the transport of materials to the site, to secure the provision and satisfactory completion of roads, footpaths, watermains, drains, open space and other services required in connection with the development, coupled with an agreement empowering the local authority to apply such security or part thereof to the satisfactory completion of any part of the

development. The form and amount of the security shall be as agreed between the planning authority and the developer or, in default of agreement, shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

Reason: To ensure the satisfactory completion of the development.

**Board Member**

**Date:** 20/10/2020

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Terry Prendergast